

NO OTHER GODS ALLOWED

TEXT: (Exodus 20:1-3, KJV)

¹ And God spake all these words, saying, ² I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

INTRODUCTION

1. "Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them" (Deuteronomy 11:16, NIV).
2. "Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons" (Deuteronomy 7:3, NIV).
3. "For they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you" (Deuteronomy 7:4, NIV).
4. "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:14-15, NIV).
5. "'How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.' But the people said nothing" (1 Kings 18:21, NIV).

I. One God

1. "I am Yahweh, that is My name; I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. The past events have indeed happened. Now I declare new events; I announce them to you before they occur" (Isaiah 42:8-9, HCSB).

A. No Other Gods

1. "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:22, KJV).
2. "'You *are* my witnesses,' [declares] Yahweh, 'and my servant whom I have chosen so that you may know and believe [in] me and understand that I *am* he. No god was formed before [me], and none shall be after me. I myself *am* Yahweh, and there is no savior besides me!" (Isaiah 43:10-11, LEB).
3. "Thus says Yahweh, the king of Israel, and its redeemer, Yahweh of hosts: 'I *am the* first, and I *am the* last, and there is no god besides me" (Isaiah 44:6, LEB).
4. "Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any" (Isaiah 44:8, KJV).
5. "Thus says Yahweh: 'Heaven *is* my throne, and the earth *is* the footstool for my feet" (Isaiah 66:1, LEB).

B. New Testament Idolatry

1. "For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things" (Philippians 3:18-19, NIV).
2. "Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry" (1 Corinthians 10:14, NIV).
3. "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry" (Colossians 3:5,

NIV).

C. The Sole Object of Worship

1. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3, KJV).
2. “The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7, KJV).

II. PUTTING THE FIRST COMMANDMENT INTO PRACTICE

1. “One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, ‘Of all the commandments, which is the most important?’” (Mark 12:28, NIV).
2. “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:30-31, NIV).

A. Love the Lord Your God First

1. "I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD" (Psalm 116:13, NIV).
2. “I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace” (Acts 20:24, NIV).
3. "I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD" (Psalm 116:13, NIV).

B. Love as God Loves

1. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him” (John 3:16-17, NIV).
2. “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8, NIV).
3. “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved” (Ephesians 2:4-5, NIV).
4. “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:9-10, NIV).

C. Love What God Loves

1. “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers” (1 John 3:16, NIV).

III. ABSTRACT IDOLS IN AN IMITATION FAITH

1. “People knew God perfectly well, but when they didn’t treat him like God, refusing to worship him, they trivialized themselves into silliness and confusion so that there was neither sense nor direction left in their lives. They pretended to know it all, but were illiterate regarding life. They traded the glory of God who holds the whole world in his hands for cheap figurines you can buy at any roadside stand” (Romans 1:21-23, MSG).

A. Verticle Love and Horizontal Hate

1. "If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother" (I John 4:20-21, NIV).
2. "Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water" (James 3:10-12, NIV).
3. James is telling us that if our arms are lifted to God in love, but are extended to our brother, or sister, or spouse in hate, we violate the First Commandment.
 - a. "It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion" (Galatians 5:19-20, MSG).

B. The Idol Called "I Am in Control"

1. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7, NIV).
2. "Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life" (Philippians 4:6-7, MSG).

C. An Idol Called Unforgiveness

1. "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins" (Matthew 6:14-15, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:1-2, KJV).
2. "For you will not bow in worship to another god, for 'Yahweh *is* Jealous' is his name, he *is* a jealous God" (Exodus 34:14, LEB).
3. "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:31-32, NIV).
4. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3, KJV).

QUESTIONS

1. Memorize the First Commandment: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3, KJV).
2. Discuss what kinds of things become gods in your life.
3. Who, or what is the god called Stuff?
4. Talk about how hate, or fear, or unforgiveness can become a god.